

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/771,389

Applicant(s)

ARAI, MASATOSHI

Examiner

Art Unit

Ting Zhou

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/9/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed on 9 May 2007 have been received and entered. The applicant has added new claim 5. Claims 1-5 as amended are pending in the application.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-5 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The present invention teaches a device for displaying items in a list. Each of the independent claims identifies the distinct feature of a display controlling means that is operable to, in response to an input operation into the operation element, move the current item frame to either the first side of the second side so as to overlap one of the foreground item frames, and move the other of the foreground item frames to the central zone, such that an item frame, which was adjacent to the other of the foreground item frames before the other of the foreground item frames was moved to the central zone, is displayed in the foreground. The closest prior art, Hetherington et al. U.S. Patent 6,388,686 (hereinafter "Hetherington") and Kurtenbach U.S. Patent 5,689,667 teach the display of menu items in a circular/radial menu on the display screen. In the case of the Hetherington reference, Hetherington teaches a list display device comprising a display means for displaying a plurality of item frames in sequence on a display screen (displaying a plurality of items such as 208a-208f shown in Figure 2A) (Hetherington: column 4, lines 26-51); and a display controlling means for moving the plurality of item frames displayed on the display means in response to an input operation into an operation element to thereby display any intended item

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frame (user input into the rotate control 208 changes the current displayed item) (Hetherington: column 4, lines 26-51 and further shown in Figure 2), wherein the display means arranges a current item frame, which is selectively intended at present, in a central zone in the display screen (for example, as shown in Figure 2, item 208d is the current item frame, and it is displayed in the middle, i.e. center of items 208b and 208d) (Hetherington: column 2, lines 18-42 and column 3, line 64-column 4, line 51), wherein precedent item frames and subsequent item frames of the current item frame are arranged on a first side and a second side that are separated by the central zone and overlapped each other in a staircase pattern viewing from a cross direction of the display screen with the item frames immediately before and after the current item frame being in foregrounds (for example, item 208c is the current item frame and is displayed in the central zone, and precedent and subsequent item frames such as items 208b and 208d are displayed on either side of item 208c as shown in Figure 2) (Hetherington: column 2, lines 18-42 and column 3, line 64-column 4, line 51), and wherein the display controlling means is designed to move the current item frame together with the precedent and subsequent item frames on the right and the left side being overlapped each other in the staircase pattern in response to an input operation into the operation element (user input such as selection of item 208d will make 208 the current item, being in the middle of precedent and subsequent items 208c and 208e, respectively) (Hetherington: column 2, lines 18-42, column 3, line 64-column 4, line 51 and Figure 2). In the case of the Kurtenbach reference, Kurtenbach teaches each of the item frames indicating an item name of the list (each of the menu items displayed in the radial menu shown in Figures 4 and 6 comprise a displayed named of the item, i.e. "Meat" in Figure 4 or "Menu Item 1" in Figure 6). The prior art fails to teach moving the current item frame, in response to an input operation into

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the operation element, to either the first side or the second side so as to overlap one of the foreground item frames, and move the other of the foreground item frames to the central zone, such that an item frame, which was adjacent to the other of the foreground item frames before the other of the foreground item frames was moved to the central zone is displayed in the foreground. Therefore, the prior art fails to anticipate or render the above limitations obvious.

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ting Zhou whose telephone number is (571) 272-4058. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 7:00 am - 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached at (571) 272-4048. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TZ


TADESSE HAILU
PRIMARY EXAMINER